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A

LETTER

FROM

AN OLD SOLDIER;

ADDRESSED TO THE

ARMY AND NAVY,

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

K
Army & N.

DEDICATED TO

His Royal Highness

THE DUKE OF YORK,

BY HIS PERMISSION.

The race of Kings was by Heaven design'd,
To curb the proud oppressors of mankind;
To bind the tyrants of the earth with laws,
And fight in every injur'd nation's cause.

ADDISON.

N. B. The Author has had the honour of serving His Majesty at Home and Abroad, by Sea and Land, Horse and Foot.

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BRITANNICUM
LADY BANKS.

Entered at Stationers'-Hall.

TO HIS

ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE

DUKE OF YORK.

SIR,

A PANEGYRIC from ſo feeble a Pen as mine, would by no Means add more Luſtre to the Character of your Royal Highneſs as a General, and a Soldier's Friend, than is already conſpicuous to Europe.

I ſhall therefore content myſelf with barely ſtating my Motives for preſuming to dedicate the following Lines to you.

The Love and Loyalty I feel for my King, and the happy Conſtitution of my Country, united with an ardent Deſire to counteract thoſe diabolical Principles, which the ſecret Enemies of all that is good and praiſeworthy have ſo induſtriouſly diſſeminated, have been the ſole Inducement to this Attempt.

Should it be ſo fortunate as to meet the approbation of your Royal Highneſs, and prove of any Utility to the Nation at large, my Purpoſe will be fully anſwered.

I have the Honour to be, with all due Deference and poſſible Reſpect, Sir,

Your Royal Highneſs's

Moſt devoted

And moſt humble Servant,

A SOLDIER.

A LETTER.

Diveſt a Man of Religion, and you may eaſily fit him for Treaſon! Plots! and Murder

BEING much in the Habit of mixing with various Deſcriptions of Society, I have the Pleaſure to find, that not more than one in twenty thinking People, differ in Opinion with the preſent Rulers of the State.

A few Evenings ago, I met with a Gentleman, who declared he would not ſubſcribe a Farthing to the Voluntary Loan, for that

he did not like the War, nor the Miniſters; in Conſequence of this Speech, his Situation was ſoon rendered very uncomfortable by the Arguments which were urged againſt him. Upon being aſked if he had changed his Religion, he declared in the Negative, and then left the Company, much diſſatisfied with the Raillery he had met with; but returning the next Evening, and there being News arrived that ſome People were apprehended on Suſpicion of High Treaſon, he acknowledged the Miniſter to be more clever than he expected, and went the next Morning and ſubſcribed Fifty Pounds.

This Man was of the Eſtabliſhed Church; and although he had gone aſtray in Opinion reſpecting Politics, yet, when they came to touch upon his Religion, he ſaw the Neceſſity of being united under legal Authority.

The mentioning the Eſtabliſhed Church, leads me to reflect, that thoſe who wiſh to pull it down, have but a poor Proſpect, when they come to look round at the Number of freſh Props which are nurtured for the Support of it, to the Honour and Praiſe of this Nation, more particularly in, and round the moſt dangerous Part of it, the Metropolis, where are more than ten thouſand poor Children ſaved from the Shipwreck of Fortune, many of whom have no Protector but that Charity, which the Religion of the Country dictates. And here a pleaſant Scene to a feeling Mind will preſent itſelf, upon going into a Church where Hundreds of theſe innocent Souls are taught at the Name of Chriſt to bow their Heads.

Who, but the worſt of Men, (whoſe Pride and boundleſs Ambition, which lead them into a Frenzy little ſhort of Madneſs) would

attempt to deſtroy ſo noble a Structure, and ſend the poor Children (Numbers of whom belong to Sailors and Soldiers) wandering they know not where, without Bread or Clothing? and may it not reaſonably be ſuppoſed that thoſe very Children, and their numerous Offspring, will, in common Gratitude to their Benefactors, ſupport what ſo kindly nouriſhed them?

We are informed by a celebrated Author, whoſe Language I ſhall make uſe of, "That the Lacedæmonians, (though by the Way I believe different from what more modern Politics would have directed in like Circumſtances) when Antipater demanded of them fifty Children, as Hoſtages for the Security of a diſtant Engagement, they made this brave and wiſe Anſwer; they would not—they could not conſent—they would rather give

him up double the Number of their beſt grown-up Men;"—intimating, that however they were diſtreſſed, they would chuſe any Inconvenience, rather than ſuffer the Loſs of their Country's Education; and the Opportunity (which if once loſt, can never be regained) of giving their Youth an early Tincture of Religion, and bringing them up to a Love of Induſtry, and a Love of the Laws and Conſtitution of their Country.

If it was wiſe in thoſe Days, amongſt an united People, to riſk any thing for their Country's Education, how much more neceſſary is it in the preſent Day, when ſo many new-fangled Doctrines are ſtarted to delude the ignorant and incautious; ſuch religious Fancies as would have puzzled all the ancient Biſhops in Europe to have found the Meaning of.

What a pleaſing Picture for you to draw, my Brothers in Arms, when retired from the fatigues of War to your own Fire-ſides with your Grand-children round you, virtuouſly boaſting to them, that you had aſſiſted with your own Arm to ſupport the beſt of Kings, and Conſtitutions in the known World; the Religion of which was your conſtant Conſolation! You would then reap the Fruits of your Labours, by ſeeing your Children's Children in Peace, become (I would ſay good Citizens, but the Word has been ſo corrupted, and cruelly uſed on the other Side of the Water, that I think it might be well to blot it out of the Engliſh Language) uſeful Members of the firſt, warlike and trading Nation upon Earth.

What a laſting and comfortable Reflection to the good Sailor or Soldier to hand down to his Children, untainted, the wholeſome pure

Religion and Conſtitution his wiſe Forefathers gave him. And whilſt he is firm in protecting thoſe innocent Props of the Church from Murder, Rapine, and Plunder, he may rely upon it, that they in Return will defend him when Age has rendered him incapable of defending himſelf; and the Church and State will be preſerved to the remoteſt Generations.

I will not pretend to decide which is the neareſt or beſt Way to Heaven, whether under a *broad Brim*, a *puritanical Cock*, or a Soldier's *neat* cocked Hat, becauſe I judge the Cock of the Hat has but little to do in the Matter. One thing I dare aſſert, that Religion will make a Man afraid of nothing but doing a bad Act;—I dare go farther yet, by ſaying a Soldier hath been a religious Man; for the aftermentioned Prayer was written by a virtuous *Prince, who was a very great

*Eugene

General, and published by his Order for the Use of his Army; and if every Sailor and Soldier in the present day, would read and practise it (which I recommend them to do), they would become a Terror to those vile Incendiaries, who are unhappy within themselves, and not being capable of becoming an honest Man's Friend, are become every good Man's Enemy. They must be watched, and ruled as it were with a Rod of Iron; whilst the honest, obedient Defender of the State is beloved and protected by his King and Country, truly respected by his Officers and Friends, a Comfort to himself and Family, and a lasting Ornament to the World.

PRAYER.

"I BELIEVE in thee, O my God! do thou ſtrengthen my Faith; I hope in thee, confirm my Hopes; I love thee, inflame my Love more and more; I repent of all my Sins, but do thou increaſe my Repentance! As my firſt Beginning, I worſhip thee; as my laſt End, I long for thee; as my eternal Benefactor, I praiſe thee; as my ſupreme Protector, I pray unto thee, that it may pleaſe thee, O Lord! to guide and lead me by thy Providence, to keep me in Obedience by thy Juſtice, to comfort me by thy Mercy, and to protect me by thy Almighty Power. I ſubmit unto thee, O Lord! all my Thoughts, Words, and Deeds, as well as my Afflictions and Sufferings; and I deſire

to have thee always in my Mind, to do all thy Works in thy Name, and for thy Sake to bear all Adverſities with Patience: I will do nothing but what thou wilt, O God! becauſe it is agreeable in thy Sight. Oh give me grace to be attentive in my Prayer, temporate in my Diet, vigilant in my Conduct, and immoveable in all good Purpoſes! Grant, O Lord! that I may be true and faithful to thoſe, who have entruſted me with their Secrets; that I may be courteous and kind to all Men, and that both in my Words and Actions I may ſhew them a good Example. Diſpoſe my Heart to admire and praiſe thy Goodneſs, to hate all Errors and evil Works, to love my Neighbour, and deſpiſe the World. Aſſiſt me, good God! in ſubduing Luſt by Mortification, Covetouſneſs by Liberality, Anger by Mildneſs, and Lukewarmneſs by Zeal and Fervency. Enable me to conduct myſelf with Prudence in all Tranſactions; to ſhew Courage in

Danger, Patience in Adverſity, and in Proſperity an humble Mind. Let thy Grace illuminate my Underſtanding, direct my Will, ſanctify my Body, and bleſs my Soul. Make me diligent in curbing all irregular affections, zealous in imploring thy Grace, careful in keeping thy Commandments, and conſtant in working out my Salvation. Finally, O God! make me ſenſible, how little is the World, how great the Heavens, how ſhort Time, and how long will be the bleſſed Eternity. Oh that I may well prepare myſelf for Death! that I may dread thy Judgments! that I may avoid the Torments of Hell! and obtain of thee, O God! eternal Life, through the Merits of Jeſus Chriſt our Lord. Amen."

But ſhall we pray to God for Succeſs, and not give him Thanks when he has beſtowed it upon us? Know it is our Duty to do both.

FINIS.

Danger, Patience in Adversity, and in Pro-
sperity an humble Mind. Let thy Grace il-
luminate my Understanding, direct thy Will,
sanctify my Body, and bless my Soul. Make
me diligent in curbing all irregular affections,
zealous in improving thy Grace, careful in
keeping thy Commandments, and constant in
working out my Salvation. Finally, O God!
make me sensible, how little is the World,
how great the Heavens, how short Time,
and how long will be the blessed Eternity.
Oh that I may well prepare myself for Death!
that I may dread thy Judgments! that I
may avoid the Torments of Hell! and obtain
of thee, O God! eternal Life, through the
Merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

But then we pray to God for Success, and
not give him Thanks when he has bestowed
it upon us? Know it is our Duty to do both.

FINIS.

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